

15-65-203

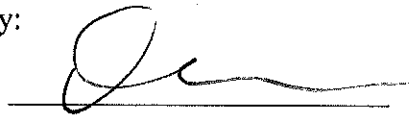
Resolution Title: Whitefish bag limits on Green Bay and Lake Michigan

The Problem: Whitefish are very abundant in the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Sport fishing opportunities have grown over the past 20 years, attracting large numbers of ice anglers from all across the country. However, the large populations of whitefish are struggling to find enough food to grow larger and reach their healthy size potential. In other words, the fish are "stunted." The normal food sources are being depleted by an overpopulation of whitefish and by competition with other aquatic life. For many years, the bag limit on whitefish has remained unchanged at 10 fish. In an attempt to bring back healthier individual whitefish and provide greater amounts of food for the remaining population of whitefish, a reduction in predators on the forage base could help facilitate healthier fish.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Door County on April 8th, 2013 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change to increase the bag limit (to be determined by the collective efforts of fisheries biologists, WCC study committee, and public input), allowing greater numbers of whitefish to be taken by sport fishermen in the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan.

Submitted by:

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Submitted in Door County: Vote Results: _____ Yes _____ No